

Update: Ordinance to investigate options other than golf at Sharp Park passes 6 to 5. <http://patch.com/A-ppGs>



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Golf at Sharp Park Tentative After Supes Pass Avalos Ordinance

Ordinance to investigate options other than golf at Sharp Park passes 6 to 5.

By [Camden Swita](#) | [Email the author](#) | December 6, 2011

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An [ordinance requiring](#) the start to negotiations with National Parks Association or select other entities about a takeover of [Sharp Park Golf Course](#) passed the San Francisco Board of Supervisors this afternoon.

Two amendments were made to the ordinance that, in its original form, directed the City of San Francisco, which owns and manages the golf course, to essentially offer Sharp Park to the National Parks Association (NPA) for use as part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) and end golf on the land.

Supervisor John Avalos, who originated the ordinance, said today when presenting the first amendment that the intent of the legislation was not to stop golf on the land, merely to consider it an option. His amendment hedged some of the original language in the ordinance to reflect that.

Supervisor Avalos indicated that even if the GGNRA were to absorb Sharp Park, it would not mean they wouldn't consider keeping golf there. It would depend on what was negotiated between the city and the NPS, he said.

Representatives of the GGNRA, although stating they would be interested in Sharp Park after the ordinance was presented in November, have not indicated they would maintain a golf course there.

The NPS regional office has not yet responded to Patch's voice message left this afternoon about the issue.

Controversy over whether golf should remain at Sharp Park and what the future purpose of the land ought to be stems from environmentalists' concerns that a threatened species and endangered species are [at risk](#) from daily golf course operations and government and community concern that keeping the golf course running is not [fiscally feasible anymore](#).

Supervisor David Chiu proposed the second amendment that made it so San Francisco could still negotiate a deal with San Mateo County for a takeover of Sharp Park as an operating golf course.

Supervisor Sean Elsbernd, the most vocal opponent of the ordinance on the board, said that Chiu and Avalos's amendments did not change the thrust of the legislation, which he said was to turn the golf course into a park.

"An option of closing the golf course is implicit in this," he said. "The concept that the GGNRA might make an agreement with us to keep the golf course open is news to me. I'd like to ask the members of this board if they've ever once heard that the GGNRA will take this and keep the golf course. Please show us."

The board's vote, with six ayes and 5 nays, is not veto-proof, however. San Francisco Ed Lee could step in negate the legislation.

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[Bob Dishong](#)

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[5:13 pm on Tuesday, December 6, 2011](#)

I wonder how much money Avalos pocketed from the environmentalists on this deal.

[Todd Bray](#)

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[5:22 pm on Tuesday, December 6, 2011](#)

Anyone who is interested can call the GGNRA and ask if the NPS intends to accept the property, and if so whether or not the NPS intends to retain golf.



[Camden Swita](#)

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[5:31 pm on Tuesday, December 6, 2011](#)

I called the Golden Gate NPS office and left a message while working on this story. Hoping to hear back soon, but I'm guessing it will be tomorrow.

[George](#)

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[6:59 pm on Tuesday, December 6, 2011](#)

The park was crystal clear that the city has to prepare the property for transfer before it could be transferred, and equally clear that managing a golf course is not part of their mission. They put out a position paper to several supervisors laying out their terms of acceptance, but also saying that they would remain neutral throughout the process. It'll be a huge responsibility for the park, and I imagine there are plenty of mixed feelings and questions as to where management funds will come from.



[Camden Swita](#)

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[7:19 pm on Tuesday, December 6, 2011](#)

Thanks, George. That's what I expect, too, although I'm curious to see what their official response will be tomorrow. Also going to check in with Mayor Ed Lee and Speier, as I'm sure they'll have an opinion.



[mw](#)

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[9:04 pm on Tuesday, December 6, 2011](#)

In his Chron column, C.W. Nevius predicted exactly this 6-5 vote. He also predicted a veto by Ed Lee.

In my view, No supervisor who cast a vote to give away this park deserves to serve in any public capacity in the City. But, it is axiomatic we get the government we deserve. We elect them, we have no one to blame but ourselves.

It is a 6-5 vote. One vote changes the outcome. Mirkarimi will be off the board in the new year. That is a very good thing. He can do less damage as Sheriff than what he can do on the Board. Eric Mar is up for reelection and vulnerable. He is out of step with his district and constituency. He betrayed his district and he betrayed labor. He is weak. It should not take much of an effort to get him off the board by this time next year.

My understanding is that this was a vote on "First Reading." It must be submitted to another vote, probably next week, for the ordinance to pass. The language of the ordinance cannot change between first and final, or the process starts over. The way they threw last minute changes at this, it's possible that a detailed reading will find a flaw that will push this into next year with Mirkarimi off the board. If that does not happen a veto by Mayor Ed Lee is the next best hope. There are not enough votes on the board to overcome a Lee veto.

Nevius was right about the board vote. Hopefully he is also right about a Lee veto.

On to the next round.

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